

a second electrode structure having a second transparent substrate, a second electrode formed on said second substrate, and a second rubbed alignment layer formed on said second substrate so as to cover said second electrode; and

a light modulating layer of an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material which is sandwiched between said first and second electrode substrates covered with first and second rubbed alignment layers and which has a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic,

wherein said first and second alignment layers are combined with said liquid crystal material so that a shifted angle between the extending direction and an optical axis of a *batonnet* is within ± 1 degree; and

wherein said first and second rubbed alignment layers have a surface tension of 49 dyn/cm to 53 dyn/cm.

14. (Twice amended) A liquid crystal display element comprising:

a first substrate including, a first electrode formed on said first substrate, and a first alignment layer wherein said first alignment layer covers said first electrode;

a second substrate including, a second electrode formed on said second substrate, and a second alignment layer wherein said second alignment layer covers said second electrode; and

a light modulating layer of an anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material between said first and second substrates and wherein said anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal material has a thresholdless voltage-transmittance characteristic,